

*The Upper Cervical Spine. Regional Anatomy, Pathology and Traumatology. A Systematic Radiological Atlas and Textbook.* By D. VAN TORKLUS and W. GEHLE. (Pp. 101; 162 figures; £7.00.) Stuttgart, Georg Thieme. London: Butterworths, 1972.

This book is conveniently split into four sections, those indicated in the title, and a short one on Developmental History which is brief but thought provoking.

The production and layout as always from this publisher are of the highest standard and make for easy assimilation of the knowledge presented to the reader.

The section on Regional Anatomy is an excellent and well balanced blend of text and illustration, giving an adequate written description but avoiding the pitfall of too much detail and consequent confusion. The tables on Roentgenometry and Ossification are, in my opinion, the best and most accurate available in modern publications.

The whole work is concluded by a good index and most comprehensive reference list, and can be commended wholeheartedly to anatomists, surgeons and radiologists alike.

M. ALLEN

*Reproduction in Mammals.* Edited by C. R. AUSTIN and R. V. SHORT. *Book 1. Germ Cells and Fertilization* (Pp. viii + 136). *Book 2. Embryonic and Foetal Development* (Pp. viii + 158). *Book 3. Hormones in Reproduction* (Pp. viii + 148). (Each volume illustrated; £3.40 cloth, £1.40 paper.) London, Cambridge University Press, 1972.

There is much to commend these little books, the first three in a series of five. Distinguished editors and contributors have succeeded in producing a lively and highly readable account of mammalian reproduction. *Book 1*, for instance, comprises straightforward descriptions of the primordial germ cells, oogenesis and ovulation, spermatogenesis and the spermatozoa, cycles and seasons, and finally fertilization. Recent work and all the up-to-date information on these topics are interpolated and emphasized.

The title of *Book 2* could be misleading if one expects a comprehensive account of mammalian development. The aim of the authors, however, is to highlight those features of development, e.g. cleavage, the blastocyst, sex determination, differentiation, fetal growth and fetal physiology, which are of interest to the research worker and experimentalist and also productive of valuable results. With each contributor discussing his own interest, the individual chapters make stimulating and informative reading.

In *Book 3*, the easy style of writing makes the topic of the reproductive hormones more palatable than usual without being dogmatic; a general chapter on these hormones is followed by an account of the hypothalamus and its known activities and thereafter chapters on hormones in the sex cycle and in pregnancy: finally there is a particularly good one on lactation. Inevitably, there is repetition in such a closely knit subject. Throughout the three books, established fact, modern concepts and the occasional touch of humour are presented as a pleasant blend. We look forward to the publication of the other two books in the series.

J. MCKENZIE

*Hamilton, Boyd and Mossman's Human Embryology.* Fourth edition. By W. J. HAMILTON and H. W. MOSSMAN. (Pp. xii + 646; 585 figures; £10.50.) Cambridge: Heffer. 1972.

Since it first appeared in 1945, this book has been a standard text with a style of its own, and the fourth edition is in the same cast. The wealth of excellent illustrations for which many students and teachers have come to have the highest regard is still the outstanding feature, now improved by the addition of thirty-four new illustrations of the same calibre. A mere count of the figures